



**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

**March 2, 2006**

**For immediate release**

- 1. DNR-funded conservation practices reduce water pollution in 2005**
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## **DNR-FUNDED CONSERVATION PRACTICES REDUCE WATER POLLUTION IN 2005**

DES MOINES — Conservation practices on agricultural and urban land are making a difference in the amount of pollutants reaching Iowa's waters. That's according to numbers released by the DNR today.

Local watershed projects are making that difference. Projects work with landowners to install conservation practices in the watershed, or the area of land that drains into a lake or stream. Common conservation practices include wetlands, ponds, terraces and buffers. These practices reduce the amount of pollutants — sediment, nutrients and bacteria — reaching a lake or stream.

Sediment can make water cloudy, damage fish and other aquatic life habitat, and fill in lakes and streambeds. High levels of nutrients, like phosphorus, can cloud the water, increase drinking water costs and lead to poor aquatic life diversity.

The DNR funds a number of local watershed projects that improve Iowa's water throughout the year. Of those, 22 reported on practices installed during federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005. From Oct. 1, 2004 to Sept. 30, 2005, those conservation practices had the following results:

- Reduced sediment reaching streams and lakes by at least 23,396 tons per year. That's equal to about 2,600 dump trucks full of soil each year.
- Reduced phosphorus reaching streams and lakes by at least 42,685 pounds per

year.

These conservation practices will continue to reduce pollutants at the same rate if they are properly maintained. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required only 22 DNR-funded projects to report FFY 2005 pollutant reductions.

“These numbers show the successes we’re seeing in many of these projects. It’s just one step toward improving and protecting our water,” said Allen Bonini, head of the DNR’s watershed improvement program. “We hope that these reductions will help us remove some streams and lakes from Iowa’s impaired waters list in the future.”

Lake Darling is just one of the watershed projects showing success. Without conservation practices, more than 16,000 tons of sediment were reaching Lake Darling every year. Initial conservation practices reduced that number to 10,444 tons per year. In the last five years, the Lake Darling watershed project has further reduced the amount of sediment reaching the lake to 6,978 tons per year. That’s a total reduction of more than 9,000 tons per year.

The Section 319 program of the EPA provides DNR funding for nonpoint pollution programs. The DNR generally funds local watershed projects in cooperation with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

**For more information, contact Ubbo Agena at (515) 281-6402.**

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## **PUBLIC ASKED TO ATTEND MEETINGS ON IMPROVING THE BIG SIOUX RIVER**

### ***Public comment period extended on water quality improvement plan***

DES MOINES – The DNR will hold two public meetings to gather Iowans’ input on a draft plan to improve water quality in the Big Sioux River.

The meetings are scheduled for March 9 at the following locations:

- Rock Rapids: 1 p.m., Rock Rapids Community Center, 404 First Ave.
- Hawarden: 6 p.m., Hawarden Community Center, 1150 Central Ave.

High bacteria levels are the main cause of water quality problems in the Big Sioux River, located in northwest Iowa. Those bacteria indicate that waste from wildlife, livestock, birds and humans is in the water. The bacteria come from sources throughout the watershed, or area of land that drains into the river. Those sources include treated wastewater, rain and snow runoff from areas with wildlife and livestock, and leaking septic systems.

The DNR has developed a draft water quality plan, also known as a TMDL, or Total

Maximum Daily Load. TMDLs are calculations used to determine how much of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The plan includes information on how conservation efforts in the watershed can improve water quality.

Iowans can submit comments on the Big Sioux River plan via e-mail, phone or mail (contact information below). The public comment period has been extended from March 6 to March 17.

The draft plan and supporting documents can be obtained through:

Internet: [www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/water/tmdlwqa/tmdl/publicnotice.html)

E-mail: [william.graham@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:william.graham@dnr.state.ia.us)

Telephone: William Graham at (515) 281-5917

Mail: William Graham, care of Iowa DNR, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319

After receiving public comments, the DNR will forward the draft plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for final approval.

**For more information, contact Chris Van Gorp at (515) 281-4791.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR took the following enforcement actions in February unless otherwise noted. The following are only briefs; please contact Jessie Brown of the DNR for more information at (515) 281-5131.

### **Administrative Orders**

Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the order or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Larry Krogman, of Ashton, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan (MMP) and annual compliance fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to submit an MMP and fees for a site in Lyon County. This order was taken in January.
- Maridale Farms, LLC, dba Wirtjers Finisher Farm, of Sac County, was ordered to submit an updated manure management plan (MMP) and annual compliance fee, and to pay a \$3,000 penalty. The order is in regard to failure to submit an MMP and fees for a site in Sac County. This order was taken in January and has been appealed.

### **Consent Orders**

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- The City of Renwick agreed in a consent order to pay a \$5,000 penalty. \$1,000 will be paid to the DNR, and \$4,000 will be paid towards a Supplemental Environmental Project to place advertisements regarding open burning in local newspapers. The consent order is in regard to air quality and solid waste disposal violations in Renwick.
- Curt Palmer, of Renwick, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning violations in Renwick.
- Dennis Nerum, of Renwick, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to air quality and solid waste disposal violations in Renwick.
- Jeff Albrecht, of Renwick, agreed in a consent order to pay a \$500 penalty. The consent order is in regard to open burning violations in Renwick.
- Fred Miller, dba Earthworks Contracting, of Cherokee, agreed in a consent order to follow DNR asbestos regulations and to pay a \$10,000 penalty. The consent order is in regard to National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) violations for the demolition and disposal of the Willow School in Quimby.
- Kelderman Lime, Inc., of Oskaloosa, agreed in a consent order to submit a Minor Source Emissions Inventory Questionnaire and to pay a penalty if the questionnaire is not submitted. The consent order is in regard to air quality violations.

**For more information, contact Jessie Brown at (515) 281-5131 or [Jessie.Brown@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Jessie.Brown@dnr.state.ia.us).**